

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6510**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1417

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 17, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Autopsy of a Child.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Budak

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. C. Lawson

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed - House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires a county coroner to have an autopsy performed on the body of a child whose death is sudden and unexpected except in certain circumstances, including when the child's next of kin requests that an autopsy not be performed.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Currently, a county coroner will have an autopsy performed if the coroner considers it necessary or if the prosecuting attorney of the county requests an autopsy. This bill requires a county coroner to have an autopsy performed on a child aged one week to three years old and whose death is sudden and unexpected, unless certain other conditions are met.

The bill provides for the expense of the autopsy to be paid by the county. According to current law, physicians who perform autopsies shall be paid a fee of at least \$50 from the county treasury. The average cost that counties pay for an autopsy is found to be around \$950 to \$1,600, depending on individual circumstances. The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminable because it is not known how many children between the ages of one week and three years will die suddenly and unexpectedly. The Indiana Department of Health reported that 676 children under age one and 142 children ages one through four died in 2000. There are approximately 325,343 children ages zero to three in Indiana, according to the 2000 census.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** County Coroners' offices.

**Information Sources:** Department of Health, *Indiana Mortality Report*, Table 4 - Deaths by Cause, Age, Race, and Sex: Indiana Residents, 2000; United States Census; Allen County Coroner; Marion county Coroner; Tippecanoe County Coroner.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Valerie Ruda, 317-232-9867